Here is the importance of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs. I think it is the brightest and most far-reaching light which has as yet been lit along the way towards real citizenship. For it is not talk, protest, demand. Rather, it is a courageous and imaginative venture. To ask the Sydney Public for a large sum not to hand out help, but to purchase in the city a building to be a centre for Aborigines was a brave act.

So may I remind all Aborigines that the Foundation is your place where you can obtain advice, help, education, pleasure and fellowship, and in the running of which you yourselves are to undertake an increasing share of responsibility.

By showing the practical value of this venture in self-help, the Foundation will merit assistance from Service Organizations and the Government. I hope, too, that the various Aboriginal groups will also support it. In all cases no strings should be attached. Non-political and non-sectarian; not complaining but up and doing a positive job; helping Aborigines already in Sydney or those who come there, to find their feet and make a success of life whatever they are. Such is the Foundation. Look on it and use it as a light to lighten your way.

YOU MEET THE NICEST PEOPLE IN MUNGINDI

Mungindi is a little town, but the people there have shown that they are big-hearted. They proved it by donating almost £200 to a fund organised to help an Aboriginal mother walk again.

It all started several months ago, when Mrs Jack Picton, Snr, saw Mrs Zonda Cubby hobbling along the street. Mrs Cubby, mother of two little girls aged three and two, had her leg amputated six years ago after an accident. Although raising a family and doing the shopping and chores makes enough demands on any woman, Zonda Cubby never complained.

But Mrs Picton did. She thought Zonda should have an artificial leg so she decided to see to it that Zonda got an artificial leg.

Mrs Picton turned into a one-woman fund raising organisation, and it wasn’t long before the whole town got behind her with the result that the needed money soon was collected.

Free broadcast time over radio station 2VM Moree publicised Mrs Picton’s work in Mungindi, 75 miles away, and many small donations started to flow in. Moree Apex club gave £50, The Mungindi RSL club, £10 10s., and the Diggers’ club, £10 10s. Two street stalls, run by Mrs Picton and Mrs Valmai Francisco, brought in another £50. The Aborigines Welfare Board put up £30 and provided free rail travel warrants and paid accommodation expenses for Mrs Cubby.

And the help didn’t stop in Mungindi. Dr Swan, who operated on Mrs Cubby in Sydney Hospital six years ago, did not charge for his services in fitting the leg. Limbco, the artificial-limb manufacturers, also gave much assistance to Dr Swan and Mrs Cubby.

Now, Zonda Cubby is getting used to the new leg and the return to an almost-normal life. She won’t break 10 seconds for a hundred-yards sprint, but in most other ways she is no longer on a one-leg handicap.